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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Docket No. 0998/1H043-US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Krikor KOUYOUMDJIAN

Serial No. 09/808,291

Art Unit: 3721

Confirmation No.: 4267

Filed: March 14, 2001

Examiner: Christopher R. HARMON

For: **CONTAINER HAVING A CLOSURE FLAP THAT INCLUDES AN ARCUATE FREE END**

PENDING CLAIMS AS OF FEBRUARY 7, 2003

February 7, 2003

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

1. A method of forming a container from a folded, flat, unitary blank of foldable sheet material, wherein the folded, flat, unitary blank of foldable sheet material, comprises: a base wall, a first closure flap foldably attached to said base wall along a first edge

thereof; a rear wall foldably attached to said base wall along a second edge thereof, said second edge having a first end adjacent to said first edge; a top wall foldably attached to said rear wall; a front wall foldably attached to said top wall; wherein, said closure flap comprises a side wall foldably attached to said base wall and a locking flap foldably attached to said side wall along a locking flap fold line, said locking flap having a free edge opposite to said fold line, said free edge being arcuate for at least a portion of its length, said arcuate portion being curved inwardly toward said locking flap fold line; said method comprising the steps of:

placing a plurality of folded, flat, unitary blanks of foldable sheet material in at least one stack;

removing one of the folded flat blanks from the at least one stack;

moving the removed folded, flat blank from the folded, flat position to an assembled, closure flap open position.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

moving the closure flap from the open position to the closed position.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the folded, flat, unitary blank of foldable sheet material further comprises:

a first tab foldably attached to said rear wall at a first edge thereof, a second tab foldably attached to said rear wall at a second edge thereof, said first edge being disposed opposite to said second edge;

a third tab foldably attached to said front wall at a first edge thereof, a fourth tab foldably attached to said front wall at a second edge thereof, said first edge of said front wall being disposed opposite to said second edge of said front wall

further comprising the step of:

before the moving the closure flap step and after the removing one of the folded, flat blanks step, moving one of said first and second tabs and one of said third and fourth tabs inwardly toward an opening formed in the assembled blank.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

after the moving one of said first and second tabs step, moving said locking flap toward said closure flap so that said locking flap will be smoothly inserted into an interior of the container, without jamming, during the moving the closure flap step.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

inserting a food product into the container before the moving the closure flap step.

6. (New) A method of forming a container from a folded, flat, unitary blank of foldable sheet material, wherein the folded, flat, unitary blank of foldable sheet material comprises: a base wall, a first closure flap foldably attached to said base wall along a first edge thereof; a rear wall foldably attached to said base wall along a second edge thereof, said second edge having a first end adjacent to said first edge; a top wall foldably attached to said rear wall; a front wall foldably attached to said top wall; wherein, said closure flap comprises a side wall foldably attached to said base wall and a locking flap foldably attached to said side wall along a locking flap fold line, said locking flap having a free edge opposite to said fold line, said free

edge being arcuate for at least a portion of its length, said arcuate portion being curved inwardly toward said locking flap fold line; said method comprising the steps of:

folding each of a plurality of flat, unitary blanks of foldable sheet material;

placing said plurality of folded, flat, unitary blanks of foldable sheet material in at least one stack after the folding step;

removing one of the folded flat blanks from the at least one stack;

moving the removed folded, flat blank from the folded, flat position to an assembled, closure flap open position.